

Senate Bill 207
March 31, 2011
Presented by Ken McDonald
House Agriculture Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here to provide information about Senate Bill 207.

FWP appreciates the revisions to this bill that addressed our concerns in the original version. As written, this bill pretty well clarifies the difference between wild bison and feral domestic bison (Page 2, line 13), and agency and landowner responsibilities therein. This should address the concerns expressed in the Senate hearing about who has responsibility when/if domestic bison were to be turned loose. They would still be considered domestic bison, under the jurisdiction of the Department of Livestock.

A more precise definition of "bison" in Section 2 (Page 1, line 26) would further reduce interpretation and confusion of what is meant in Section 1. We recommend that the definition of bison be domestic bison or feral bison, but does not include wild bison. We further recommend that wild bison be further defined as a bison that has not been reduced to captivity and is NOT owned by a person.

These clarifications to definitions would make it clear that Section 1 pertains to domestic or feral bison and not wild bison, which is what we assume is the intent of the sponsor.

I will be available to answer any questions.

PROPOSED Amendments to Senate Bill 207

1. Page 1, line 26.
Following: "domestic bison"
Insert: "or"
2. Page 1, line 26.
Following: "feral bison"
Insert: ""but does not include wild buffalo"
3. Page 1, line 27.
Strike: line 27 in its entirety
4. Page 2, line 4.
Following: " Wild bison"
Insert: "or wild buffalo"
5. Page 2, line 4.
Following: "captivity"
Insert: "and owned by a person"
6. Page 2, line 8.
Following: "domestic bison"
Insert: "or"
7. Page 2, line 8.
Following: "feral bison"
Insert: ""but does not include wild buffalo"
8. Page 2, line 9.
Strike: line 9 in its entirety
9. Page 2, line 15.
Following: " Wild bison"
Insert: "or wild buffalo"
10. Page 2, line 15.
Following: "captivity"
Insert: "and owned by a person"